1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA 2 MONROE DIVISION 3 4 ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR. ET AL., 5 Plaintiffs, CASE NO. 23-cy-0381 v. 6 CONSOLIDATED WITH CIVIL ACTION 7 NO. 22-cv-01213 (LEAD) JOSEPH R. BIDEN ET AL., Defendants. 8 9 10 11 **DECLARATION OF CONNIE SAMPOGNARO** 12 13 I, CONNIE SAMPOGNARO, declare as follows: 14 1. I am a Louisiana resident, over the age of 18, and competent to testify. I have personal 15 knowledge of the facts set forth herein. I am a Plaintiff in this action, and I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief on Standing. 16 2. I am a healthcare professional, and my husband is an interventional cardiologist with one 17 of the largest sole cardiology practices in the southeast region of the United States. 18 3. Since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, I have been urgently in need of 19 accurate, reliable, up-to-date information about the proper treatment of COVID, but I have been repeatedly prevented from accessing this information because of censorship on 20 the major social media platforms. 21 4. I have been diagnosed with Lyme Disease, and I am potentially immuno-compromised. 22 5. Beginning in early 2020, I constantly looked online for accurate COVID information, for myself, my family, and also for my husband's patients, because they are all high risk. 23 For the most part, we were dependent on search via Google, YouTube, Facebook, and 24 25 Page 1 of 3 26

- Twitter for any information we could gather to help make health decisions for myself, my family, and my husband's patients.
- My husband and I conferred with many other healthcare professionals in our area, and we
 were all finding it very difficult to locate information on proper treatment protocols for
 COVID-19.
- 7. Many of the published studies that I initially located, containing useful information about the treatment of COVID, were being swept off the major social media platforms, or they were made very difficult to locate.
- 8. There are several specific organizations and individuals I follow online to find exceptionally valuable and hard-to-find information about vitamins or supplements or alternative medicines to boost the immune system to help a person fight COVID. Among these individuals and organizations are Children's Health Defense, Dr. Joseph Mercola, and GreenMedInfo. These organizations and individuals have been among the few sources of hard data and informed viewpoints challenging the COVID "orthodoxy," including the orthodox treatment protocols pressed on the medical community as the COVID "standard of care." In our view, that orthodoxy was not scientifically or medically sound, was in some cases medically harmful, and in any event was keeping from the medical community information about important possible alternative treatments. But on many occasions, the social media pages of CHD, Dr. Mercola, and GreenMedInfo were made unavailable or difficult to locate by the platforms. Their videos—along with those of most all alternative health sites—were censored on YouTube.
- 9. I also followed online a parents' group called Parents' Choice Louisiana, where parents would exchange information and stories concerning the safest protocols and choices for children. This group was frequently restricted and blocked on social media platforms.
- 10. The confusion among health care professionals about the proper treatment of COVID cannot be exaggerated, and our confusion was compounded by the online censorship of important voices and data online. I even noticed that pages from FDA and CDC were disappearing or would come up with "404" (site not found) error messages.
- 11. This censorship has prevented me (and many other health care professionals in my community) from accessing information from sources we followed on a subject of life-or-

- death importance—the proper treatment of COVID and the best vitamins or supplements to take to boost immunity—for me, for my family, and for my husband's patients.
- 12. While the pandemic is no longer the crisis it was a couple of years ago, COVID is still a prevalent, serious disease. Moreover, the adverse health effects of the COVID vaccines are very much a present-day concern, and those effects remain highly uncertain. As a result, I am still deeply concerned about getting information and viewpoints about COVID and the COVID vaccines that challenge the orthodox narratives. But I am still prevented from getting all the information I want from sources I want to receive information from. For example, I still am unable to get full information from Dr. Mercola's, CHD's, and GreenMedInfo's social media accounts, all of which remain restricted, shadow-banned, and censored in a variety of ways. I know this from first-hand experience, because either I cannot access their social media accounts at all, or I cannot access their social media content.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Calhoun, Louisiana

July 31, 2024.

Connie Sampognaro